

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1977 (Irwin) – As Introduced February 13, 2026

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 9 - 1

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill revises the Online Notarization Act to implement a Secretary of State–administered online notarization system by establishing requirements for training, electronic seals and signatures, recordkeeping, platform registration, authorizing fees and related conforming and clarifying changes.

FISCAL EFFECT:

The Secretary of State’s office, which is sponsoring this measure, reports minor and absorbable costs. This bill may generate new state revenue through initial registration, renewal, and update fees charged to online notarization platforms and depositories, thereby offsetting potential administrative costs associated with the program.

COMMENTS:

A notary public serves as an impartial witness to the signing of legal documents, thereby ensuring the authenticity of the signature and safeguarding against fraud or coercion. Accounting for modern technology, SB 696 (Portantino) Chapter 291, Statutes 2023, established a framework for licensed California notaries to conduct remote online notarizations. The Online Notarization Act becomes operative when the SOS certifies on its internet website that the necessary technical requirements are complete, but in any event no later than January 1, 2030, unless the SOS informs the Legislature and the Governor, in writing on or before January 1, 2029, that the technical requirements will not be complete by the statutory deadline. According to the SOS, this bill is necessary to meet the January 2030 deadline.

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